

**City of Chula Vista  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Minutes**

**Thursday – 6:30 p.m.**

Ken Lee Building Conference Room

**June 26, 2007**

430 F Street

Meeting called to order by Chair Rios at 6:35 p.m.

Staff Present: Shauna Stokes, Assistant Director of Recreation  
Rick Hopkins, Assistant Director of Public Works Operations  
Ed Hall, Principal Recreation Manager  
Brian Cox, Principal Recreation Manager  
Tom Class, Parks Manager  
John Gates, Senior Recreation Supervisor  
Ted Nelson, Recreation Supervisor III

Guests: Duane Bazzel, 1110 Magellan Way, CV 91910

**1. Roll Call/Motion to Excuse**

Members Present: Commissioner Salcido (arrived at 7:20) Commissioner Rios,  
Commissioner Cien-Mayer (arrived at 6:45); Commissioner Scott,  
Commissioner Ramos, Commissioner Searles

Members Absent: Commissioner Perondi

MSC Ramos/Cien-Mayer to excuse Commissioner Perondi from tonight's meeting

**2. Approval of Minutes –**

- a. **January 18, 2007** – MSC Ramos/Searles (Vote – 4-0-2-1 with Perondi absent, Salcido and Cien-Mayer late) to approve minutes out of necessity.
- b. **February 15, 2007** – MSC Ramos/Searles (Vote 4-0-2-1 with Perondi absent, Salcido and Cien-Mayer late) to approve minutes out of necessity.
- c. **May 17, 2007** – MSC Cien-Mayer/Searles (Vote 6-0-0-1 with Perondi absent) to approve the minutes as presented.

- d. **Approval of Year End Report for FY 06-07** – MSC Searles/Ramos (Vote 6-0-0-1 with Perondi absent) to approve the Year End Report for FY 06-07.

- e. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair for FY 07-08 –**

MSC Salcido/Rios to nominate Commissioner Searles as Chair for the Parks and Recreation Commission for FY07-08.

MSC Salcido/Ramos to nominate Commissioner Cien-Mayer as Vice-Chair for the Parks and Recreation Commission for FY 07-08.

### 3. Information Items

- a. **Farewell to Larry Perondi and Vice-Chair Don Salcido for their service to the Parks and Recreation Commission** – Commissioner Salcido was presented with a plaque for his years of service on the Commission.

Commissioner Salcido thanked staff for their hard work, and thanked the Commission. He also noted that changes need to occur with regards to field use.

- b. **Current Field Conditions** – Mr. Tom Class (Parks Manager) discussed the Action Plan formulated to help improve the turf conditions at various sports fields, which include:
- Limit adding new teams to the Youth Sports Council (YSC) and letter was sent to them advising them of this action;
  - Encouraging teams to participate in the Adopt-A-Park program (litter control);
  - Increase field rest times;
  - Monitor fields and programming more closely;
  - Pursue grants for maintenance and renovation of fields;
  - Investigate charging a field maintenance fee; and
  - Work with teams/groups to help with turf renovation projects.

Commissioner Rios informed the commission that volunteer groups have assisted with turf renovations at the high schools and has worked out very well. He also added that he hopes the YSC members will see the benefit, and thinks this is a positive step.

Mr. Brian Cox (Principal Recreation Manager) informed the Commission that Recreation and Parks met several times to develop an Action Plan for the improvement of turf conditions. He noted that on June 14, 2007, the YSC members were presented with a letter from Recreation and Public Works Operations which informed the YSC that new members would not be added to the YSC, based upon the limited number of fields, over use of existing fields, and the need to rest and renovate current fields being used. Mr. Cox also pointed out the letter reiterated the department's right to limit the use of athletic facilities and those topics include:

- Reserve the number of participants and/or teams permitted to use the facility during a given period;
- The location and/or placement of portable equipment (such as goals- manage placement of goals);
- The number, location and orientation of fields of play;
- The age and/or skill level of participants; and
- The duration of use.

Mr. Cox also stated that the Recreation department would implement additional measures in the areas of fees, enforcement, and field management. Other measures would be considered to further address field overuse. Discussion on the measures discussed include:

- Fees (tournament fees of \$22 per team)
- Fee Increase from \$10 to \$11 per team
- Consider special event fee plus hourly fee for dog shows and similar events; and
- Field use surcharge for parks maintenance would be determined
- Revising wording on existing field use ordinance to assist enforcement;
- Establish a fine system for unauthorized use;
- Solicitation of CVESD assistance to limit distribution of promotion fliers to those of YSC members (have not discussed this with City Attorney);

- Continue the no allocated Sunday use;
- Limit use of fields to no more than two soccer or football teams at one time;
- Consider limiting tournaments to Monteville, Discovery, CV Community, Eucalyptus, Rohr, Voyager, and San Miguel Ranch Community parks only; and
- Elimination of overlays.

Mr. Cox talked about the overlay situation at Discovery Park (softball field with a large soccer field/multi-purpose field overlay). He further stated that within the last 6-months, Discovery Park has experienced significant wear and tear, regardless of the amount of rest and renovation put into the fields over the past several years. In addition, he also noted the fields do not fully recover due to the overlay situation. The Department is considering getting away from the overlay method at Discovery, and phasing out soccer and multi-purpose groups. Mr. Cox also stated that both Recreation and Parks concur that that use of fields will be more limited than in the past. He also noted that in the past, an open-door policy existed for YSC respective members, and even though the opportunity for children to utilize fields will be diminished, at this point with limited resources available, and the City doesn't have other alternatives and resources to manage the field conditions.

Commissioner Scott asked if the public only had access to the fields on Sundays and also asked if the \$11 increase would be applied or given to the Recreation Department.

Mr. Cox responded that there are several parks that are not programmed for organized play, and yes the fee increase would be given to the Recreation Department.

Ms. Stokes (Assistant Recreation Director) also stated that the general public makes field reservations for general play through the Recreation Department.

Commissioner Searles asked if any feedback was received from the YSC regarding the letter that was given to them.

Mr. Cox responded that to date none has been received.

Mr. Nelson (Recreation Supervisor III) responded that the YSC members at the meeting of June 14 agreed with the contents of the letter, and stated that the steps that both departments were taking were in the right direction.

Commissioner Searles talked about pirating use of fields. He also made note about the department's stand on limiting advertising of youth sports to only the YSC, and noted that physical activity opportunities for kids would be limited. He also commented on the Department advertising to participants on school campuses that joining YSC teams is okay, and at the same time, the City is limiting teams for additional recreational opportunities for those participants.

Mr. Cox responded that the best way to approach is that when a group is a member of the YSC the Department can ascertain that they carry the proper insurance, that they are a non-profit organization, and that they have background checks completed. Mr. Cox stated that that is the reason that the Recreation Department prefers groups to be part of the YSC. The Department is not certain about the background, insurance, etc. of groups not associated with the YSC that utilize city facilities, and provide programs to children.

Commissioner Searles asked about what type of solution the department had in place due to the department limiting opportunities to the YSC, which in turn limits the amount of opportunities for adults and/or kids. He also expressed his concern of participants being punished to a certain degree due to the department limiting facilities and opportunities by not allowing the expansion of the YSC due to fiscal realities.

Commissioner Searles also expressed his concern about the Department limiting the opportunities to participants on the YSC, and also to participants who are in programs not associated with the YSC. Commissioner Searles asked about what happens to those participants? He noted that this seems like a non-win situation for kids.

Mr. Cox responded that the only way to respond to that statement is by limiting those outside groups that would allow the City to be more flexible with the existing YSC groups. In other words, by limiting outside groups allows more flexibility with current YSC members.

Commissioner Searles asked if there was a chance of increasing opportunities for kids and the YSC for next year by clamping down on the unauthorized users of fields.

Mr. Cox responded that it is very difficult to say and foresee because the department is between a rock and hard place at this point because of resources that the City currently has are limited and overused. He further stated that the City is in a position where the Department can no longer serve everyone as was done in the past. Mr. Cox also noted that when additional facilities come on line such as, San Miguel Park, 70-acres park, etc. that may give the department more flexibility.

Commissioner Searles responded that this was a very honest answer, as his question was not a fair question to ask. He further noted, in a situation like this, the kids are the ones that lose out, and that's very unfortunate that we have to limit opportunities for them.

Commissioner Scott commented on the fact that the department was looking at limiting some of the advertising in schools for organized sports which would cut down membership of going into organized sports? She also noted that Department would eventually be dealing with a huge problem. In addition she stated that it also sounded like discrimination due to the fact that if an organized sport is not part of the YSC it won't be allowed to utilize the facilities.

Commissioner Searles asked about the fee increase per team, and asked if it was \$11 per team and \$22 per tournament? He also asked about Special Event Fees, Maintenance Fee, are asked if there were any other sources of revenue or fees?

Mr. Cox responded yes that the fee increase is \$11 per team, and the tournament fee was raised from \$20 to \$22. In addition, the rental fee was raised from \$20 to \$25.

Commissioner Searles asked how the City is going to conduct enforcement towards the YSC and pirate groups utilizing the facilities, if at present there aren't enough funds to water the grass, and not risking cutting positions.

Mr. Cox responded that YSC members self-police the facilities, even though it's not easy, but they handle it well mainly for self-interest and because they appreciate the situation the City is in and they realize that everyone has a vested interest in ensuring that management measures are put in place. As for enforcement of pirating groups, the City doesn't have the staff to enforce or police those groups.

Commissioner Searles suggested that both Departments meet with the Chula Vista Police Department and discuss enforcement towards pirate groups illegally utilizing city facilities.

Mr. Nelson (Recreation Supervisor III) also stated that because the YSC members are self-policing, they also keep an eye out on facilities being illegally used, report trash, illegal dumping of trash, etc.

Mr. Hopkins (Assistant Director of Public Works Operations) stated that at this point the department hasn't lost any Ranger positions, where as budgetary cuts have taken place in other areas. As far as ballfield enforcement, discussions have occurred regarding giving park rangers greater enforcement authority, additional training, etc.

Commissioner Rios stated that the charge being implemented for the organization maybe be better if the charge is by square footage of the area that is being used, which would provide better control per day, controlling the organizations' use would be more realistic because they would have to pay for it.

Commissioner Cien-Mayer stated that moving soccer out of Discovery Park would be a great challenge and asked if it would be possible to use the whole area of the back of the park?

Mr. Cox responded that Bonita Valley also suggested use of that area, and that area is sensitive open space area and is protected.

Commissioner Scott asked if fees have been compared with San Diego County, because charge is not adequate.

Mr. Cox stated that comparisons have been made and the trend or standard is to not charge YSC groups for field use.

Commissioner Cien-Mayer stated that the allocation fees are low.

Mr. Cox responded that the fee is charged per allocation period, which is twice per year.

Mr. Hopkins stated that a Field Maintenance Surcharge is currently being considered so as not use more general funds for maintenance. Currently there isn't any money coming out of Recreation fees to assist with the maintenance cost of fields.

Commissioner Salcido stated that a maintenance fee needs to be charged and or increased and charged to all organizations across the board to include, football, soccer, etc.

Mr. Nelson responded that the impact of football use in the fields is almost non-existent, and that the soccer is the most heavily played sport and creates wear and tear on fields.

Commissioner Scott asked if the \$75,000 increase was the whole fee increase department wide.

Ms. Stokes (Assistant Recreation Director) responded that yes, the fee was department wide.

4. Unfinished Business: None
5. New Business: None
6. Written Communications: None
7. Commission Comments:

Commissioner Salcido informed the Commission that he is involved with the YSC and field allocation process. He noted that field usage issues have come up, and he is recommending to the Director of Recreation that Harborside Park be programmed for the Fall/Winter allocation period. He explained that a football league is looking for a location to play and by shifting around fields, they would be placed at Loma Verde and Young's Soccer team would use Harborside Park. Commissioner Salcido also asked for support from the Commission to program Harborside Park.

Mr. Nelson responded that placing Harborside on the list of fields available for allocation would keep the pirating groups off these fields.

Commissioner Scott asked why this park wasn't being programmed.

Ms. Stokes responded that the community chose not to program this park.

Commissioner Scott asked if the City could ask the community about programming via noticing or public input?

Commissioner Salcido stated that groups use this field on regular basis for practice and games.

Commissioner Rios informed the Commission that he was made aware that a football organization has no place to practice. The group utilizing Harborside Park would be children from Harborside Elementary School, and the usage would be for about 3 hours per practice.

Ms. Stokes stated that recreation staff would take the comments from the Commission under advisement.

Commissioner Cien-Mayer stated that it was an honor to serve with Commissioners Salcido and Perondi.

Commissioner Scott asked about the status of Field of Dreams presentation conducted by Bill Winters, which sounded like a great revenue source.

Mr. Nelson responded that the Field of Dreams organization is an enterprise and in his opinion doesn't support youth programs to the extent they appear to.

Commissioner Rios responded that the City would have to purchase land for the Field of Dreams.

Ms. Stokes stated that this type venue is not in the immediate future of the Department.

Commissioner Searles stated that it was an honor to serve on the Commission with Commissioners Salcido and Perondi. In addition, he informed staff that he appreciates everything they do.

Commissioner Ramos stated that she enjoyed serving on the board with Commissioners Salcido and Perondi, and also appreciates staff's hard work.

Commissioner Rios thanked everyone for the opportunity of being chair to the commission and thanked all the past members of the Commission.

8. Staff Comments -

- a. Ms. Stokes (Assistant Director of Recreation) reviewed the monthly report to the Commission and noted the Norman Park Center as being a Cool Zone this summer, promotions for Anthony Ramos, Kathy Wigginton, and Karina Craig, and also the Free Lunch program being hosted by various community centers.
- b. Mr. Rick Hopkins (Assistant Director of Public Works Operations) informed the Commission of the approved recommendations by Council regarding Lauderbach Park renovations. In addition, a request to place the name of a fallen soldier in Memorial Park was received.

9. Public Comments -

Mr. Duane Bazzel of 1110 Magellan Way in Chula Vista thanked Commissioner Perondi for his time and efforts on the Commission and recognized Commissioner Salcido for his efforts with the fields.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. to July 19, 2007  
Margarita Cellano